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## National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Oct 25, 2005 CONTACT: 321-267-1110 Eric Lugo, Chief Ranger

## INCIDENTAL BUSINESS PERMIT CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2006 changes that will be implemented to the IBP (also referred to as a Commercial Use Authorization) process at Canaveral National Seashore and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge will include the following: for new applicants the fee is a \$100 one-time non-refundable fee and a \$250 annual non-refundable administrative fee for a total of \$350. Permits will be valid for one year. Those currently holding a permit will be charged \$250, and will not need to pay the administrative fee unless a lapse in permit exceeds one year.

These fees cover the cost's associated with the administrative process of preparing and issuing the permit including National Environmental Policy Act and cultural compliance approval if applicable.

Depending on the business activity and if additional monitoring of the activity is required there may be an additional charge included in the permit requirements. The monitoring fee is determined by how much it actually costs the seashore/refuge to monitor and/or perform needed functions to properly manage the commercial use.

IBP's are issued by the refuge manager and/or the park superintendent to permit certain commercial activities. The approved activity must be necessary and appropriate and be considered with the purpose for which the seashore/refuge was established. Examples of these types of activities include canoe and kayak trips, horseback riding and guided fishing tours. Permits are required of all operators who provide any and all goods, activities, agreements or other services to the general public which take place, at least in part, in the seashore and refuge, uses seashore or refuge resources and are undertaken for or result in compensation, monetary gain, benefit or profit to an individual, organization or corporation, whether or not such entity is organized for purposes recognized as non-profit under local, state or federal law.

Each permit year will now start January 1 and end December 31. In order to accommodate current permit holders a prorated fee system will be in place for the first year and until permits are caught up to the new system. Those permittees currently holding valid permits and meeting all of the requirements on that permit will be honored through the specific date of the individual permit.

All permits (including renewals) applied for will be prorated to December 31, 2005 at the old rate based on a monthly breakdown and then the full year price at the new \$250.00 annual rate (plus application fee if a new request.

Within thirty days (30) after the end of each year, the IBP holder is required to submit accurate financial data within the seashore and refuge. Additionally, it is required that each IBP holder submit accurate records of activities within the park, based on trips conducted within park and refuge boundaries is required. This Monthly Use Statistics Report is used primarily to assess impact on park resources and for planning purposes.

Contact the phone number above for more information.